

## Southern SARE Equity and Prosperity Sustainable Agriculture Leadership Program

Historically underserved farmers and ranchers face a myriad of challenges in agriculture. From lack of access to land, to issues in technology, to concerns regarding family matters and health, underserved farmers and ranchers struggle to remain profitable, while supporting their communities.

Community leaders, whether they are individual farmers/ranchers, farmer groups, or non-governmental organizations that support those underserved farmers and ranchers, strive to create ag community resiliency and vitality in the face of those challenges.

In recognition of those contributions, Southern Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SSARE), has created the Sustainable Agriculture Leadership Program.

The Sustainable Agriculture Leadership Program, operated by Southern SARE’s Equity and Prosperity Committee, champions the leadership contributions of historically underserved farmers and ranchers and non-governmental organizations that serve those audiences within the Southern region.

The purpose of the program is to enhance the resiliency, strength and vivacity of historically underserved farmers and ranchers. Budget

In order to recognize those contributions in the sustainable agriculture community across the Southern region, the Sustainable Agriculture Leadership Program provides a small amount of sponsorship funds to support education and training activities specifically targeted to historically underserved farmers and ranchers.

In addition, the individual farmer/rancher, farmer group or NGO selected to participate in the Sustainable Agriculture Leadership Program will be recognized for their contributions through a series of communications pieces developed by Southern SARE.

## Requirements to Apply

#### Who is Eligible:

* Historically underserved farmers and ranchers in leadership positions in their community.
* Farmer groups who have demonstrated leadership contributions for historically underserved farmers and ranchers.
* NGOs or other community groups who have demonstrated leadership contributions for historically underserved farmers and ranchers.

Historically underserved farmers and ranchers include:

* minority and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers (African American, Asian, Hispanic, Native American),
* beginning farmers and ranchers,
* military veterans,
* women farmers.

#### Funding Amount:

The maximum funding amount requested is $3,000.

**Activities funded must be completed by July 15, 2022.**

**What the Funding Supports:**

The sponsorship funds:

* Education and training activities for historically underserved farmers and ranchers. **Youth-related projects are not eligible.**
  + Activities must demonstrate that the outcomes will benefit historically underserved farmers and ranchers as the end audience;
  + Activities must pertain to sustainable agriculture topics. Such topics can include, but are not limited to ag production, heirs property, education and training resources, safety and health, market challenges, food access, disaster recovery, access to technology, and stress and mental health;
  + Activities can be in-person or online. They can include, but are not limited to farmer field days, “how-to” demonstrations, curriculum/course development, training manuals, webinars, workshops, and hands-on training.

## Allowable Budget Items

The following budget items are allowable expenses, based on USDA-NIFA rules and regulations. Each budget item requested must be allowable, justified and itemized. Any items listed that do not fall under this allowable list will be rejected.

#### Allowable Budget Items:

* Meals
  + Lunches and refreshments only when the food is part of the costs of the continuity of the event. Is food necessary for continuity to achieve event goals? Lunches must serve an educational purpose. **Award luncheons are not allowed. Breakfasts are not allowed.**
  + Dinner only when the food is part of the costs of the continuity of the event, and if there is a speaker or educational program held during the dinner. The dinner must serve the purpose of disseminating educational and technical information. **Award dinners are not allowed.**
* Travel for event speakers and presenters **only**
  + Registration of event for speakers or presenters
  + Transportation costs of speakers or presenters per federal mileage guidelines
  + Lodging for speakers or presenters
* Rental of event facilities or planning spaces. This can include convention center/conference/hotel spaces, community centers, church spaces for non-religious purposes, and on-farm locations. Tents or canopies are allowed as long as educational sessions take place under that space. **General supplies (tables, chairs, port-o-johns, paper products, etc.) are not allowed. Entertainment, such as social activities/film screenings, and entertainment venues, such as breweries, eateries or similar, are not allowed.**
* Technical equipment rentals, such as audio visual technologies, online webinar fees, photography, graphic design, etc.
* Speaker or presenter fees
* Incidental items in support of the event, such as printing of publications or marketing materials; training materials; books; brochures; posters/flyers; or advertising. Items must be educational resources.

## Program Evaluation

In order to evaluate the effectiveness of the project activity, program participants will be asked to provide evaluation materials at the conclusion of their project. This can include a video, an impact report, or other evaluation documents. Failure to submit an evaluation report can prohibit the recipient from receiving Southern SARE sponsorship funding in the future.

## Program Recognition

In addition to funding support, Southern SARE will recognize those participating in the program through a series of communications materials. These materials can include videos, photos, podcast interviews, press releases, and other communications efforts that will enable program participants to share their stories and share their project activity with the greater sustainable ag community across the Southern region

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# **Southern Sustainable Agriculture Leadership**

# **Program Application**

The Southern Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SSARE) program is offering its Sustainable Ag Leadership program for 2022. The program recognizes the community leadership contributions of historically underserved farmers and ranchers and the community groups and NGOs who serve those audiences.

The Sustainable Ag Leadership program provides a small amount of sponsorship funds (up to $3,000) to support education and training activities in sustainable agriculture specifically targeted to historically underserved farmers and ranchers.

In addition, the individual farmer/rancher, farmer group or NGO selected to participate in the Sustainable Ag Leadership Program will be recognized for their contributions through a series of communications pieces developed by Southern SARE.

To be considered, complete this form in its entirety by January 1, 2022. Applications will be reviewed and applicants selected in February 2022. Education and training activities must be completed by July 15, 2022. **Any incomplete forms will be returned.**

# For more information, contact Brennan Washington at [washingtonb@fvsu.edu](mailto:washingtonb@fvsu.edu)

#### NOTE: SPONSORSHIPS ARE CONTINGENT ON ANNUAL FUNDING AVAILABILITY AT THE TIME OF REQUEST. FUNDS ARE DISCRETIONARY AND WILL BE AWARDED AT THE DISCRETION OF SOUTHERN SARE. A SUBMISSION OF SPONSORSHIP REQUEST DOES NOT AUTOMATICALLY INDICATE SUPPORT ACCEPTANCE.

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1. Basic Contact Information

Name:

Organization (if applicable):

Address:

Phone:

E-mail:

# Tell us about your leadership abilities and how your efforts have impacted historically underserved farmers/ranchers:

1. Training/Education Event

Name of event:

Date of event:

Brief description of event:

Demonstrate how the event pertains to and furthers sustainable agriculture:

# Demonstrate how the event or knowledge gained benefits historically underserved farmers/ranchers:

1. Budget

**Total Amount Requested:**

1. Budget Breakdown

**Meals**

Amount requested:

Itemize meals (Ex. 50 participants X $8 per person for lunch):

Justify why the expense is needed:

**Facility Rentals**

Amount requested:

Itemize the rental cost (Ex. Hotel conference room for two days at $100/day):

Justify why the expense is needed:

**Technical Equipment**

Amount requested:

Itemize the equipment cost:

Justify why the expense is needed:

**Speaker Fees**

Amount requested:

Itemize speaker fees (Ex. Honorarium paid at $100/day for two days, or speaker fee $50/hr for 8 hours:

Justify why the expenses is needed:

**Incidentals**

Amount requested:

Itemize incidental costs (Ex. 500 flyers printed at .50/flyer):

# Justify why the expense is needed: